

CLAIMS

1. An apparatus for generating drive signals comprising:

5 an input (9) for receiving a sync signal (S10), said sync signal comprising a first interval (T_R) containing one or more of a first type (200) of timing pulses and a second interval (T_M) during which said first type of timing pulses are not present;

10 means (10) for generating an output (12), said generating means providing a drive signal (S20), said drive signal containing one or more of a second type of timing pulses (210) wherein the leading and trailing edges of said second type of timing pulses are substantially coincident with the leading and trailing edges of said first type of timing pulses during said first interval and wherein said drive pulses (220) are lower in frequency and shorter in pulse width during said second interval.

15 2. The apparatus as cited in claim 1 wherein said sync signal (S10) is horizontal sync and said drive signal is horizontal drive.

20 3. The apparatus as cited in claim 2 wherein said horizontal sync and said horizontal drive are NTSC signals.

25 4. The apparatus as cited in claim 2 wherein said horizontal sync and said horizontal drive are not NTSC signals.

30 5. The apparatus as cited in claim 1 further comprising:
a plurality of monostable multivibrators (110,120) disposed between said input (9) and said output (12) of said apparatus wherein said monostable multivibrators are configured in a ring arrangement having an output (14) of a first monostable multivibrator (120) connected to an input (16) of a second monostable multivibrator (110) and an output (18) of said second monostable multivibrator (110) connected to a first input (19) of said first monostable multivibrator (120), and wherein said input sync signal (S10) is connected to a second input (15) of said first monostable multivibrator (120) and said output drive signal (S20) is derived at an output (12) of said first monostable multivibrator (120).

6. The apparatus cited in claim 5 wherein;

35 said first input (15) to said first monostable multivibrator (120) is a reset input.

7. The apparatus cited in claim 5 wherein;

40 said second monostable multivibrator (110) exhibits a predetermined pulse duration (T_{140}) that is less than the pulse width (T_s) of said input sync signal; and

the sum of the pulse width (T_{130}) of said first monostable multivibrator (120) and the pulse width (T_{140}) of said second monostable multivibrator (110) is greater than the period (T_H) of said input sync signal.

8. The apparatus as cited in claim 5 wherein:

5 at least one of said plurality of monostable multivibrators is of a retriggerable variety.

9. A method for generating drive signals comprising the steps of:

examining (310) a sync signal (S10) for the presence of one or more sync pulses;

10 outputting (320) said one or more sync pulses as drive pulses if said sync pulses are present; and

enabling (330) a free-running oscillator to output one or more drive pulses if said sync pulses are not present.

10. The method cited in claim 9 wherein:

15 the output of said free-running oscillator contains drive pulses of a shorter duration (T_{140}) than sync pulses (T_S), and the repetition frequency of said free-running oscillator output is lower than that of said sync pulses.

11. The method cited in claim 9 wherein:

20 said sync signal (S10) is horizontal sync and said drive signal (S20) is horizontal drive.

12. The method cited in claim 11 wherein:

25 said sync signal and said drive signal are NTSC signals.

13. The method cited in claim 11 wherein:

said sync signal and said drive signal are not NTSC signals.

14. Means for generating a drive signal comprising:

25 oscillator means (10) for generating a drive signal (S20) when no input sync signal is present;

means (120) for transmitting sync pulses (200) from said input sync signal (S10) to said drive signal (S20) when said sync pulses are present; and

30 means (15) for disabling said oscillator means when said sync pulses are present.

15. Means for generating a drive signal cited in claim 14 wherein:

said input sync signal (S10) is horizontal sync and said drive signal (S20) is horizontal drive.

16. Means for generating a drive signal cited in claim 15 wherein:
said sync signal and said drive signal are NTSC signals.

17. Means for generating a drive signal cited in claim 15 wherein:
said sync signal and said drive signal are not NTSC signals.